

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00383 280907Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /046 W  
-----010651 281024Z /21

R 280800Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9145  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0383

BANGKOK ALSO PASS UDORN ELECTRICALLY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC EAIR SWEL LA  
SUBJECT: LAO CIVIL AVIATION CONDITIONS

REF: A VIENTIANE0319, B VIENTIANE 0363

1. A FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD US MARCH 27 THAT A  
LAO AVIATION DOMESTIC FLIGHT CRASHED A WEEK AGO  
AT VIENTIANE'S WATTAY AIRPORT. HE SAID THE CRASH WAS  
DUE TO PILOT ERROR: "HE LANDED IT ON ITS NOSE." THERE  
WERE REPORTEDLY NO FATALITIES ALTHOUGH MOST OR ALL OF  
THE PASSENGERS AND CREW WERE INJURED.

2. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT THE  
PLANE WHICH CRASHED ON MARCH 8 (REF A) HAD TAKEN OFF  
TOO LATE TO LAND IN VIENTIANE AND THAT ITS RADIO AND  
COMPASS WERE INOPERATIVE AT THE TIME OF TAKEOFF. WE  
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UNDERSTAND THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO FOLLOW THE MEKONG  
RIVER TO VIENTIANE VISUALLY BUT BECAUSE OF DENSE HAZE  
AND DUST IN THE AIR COMMON AT THIS TIME OF YEAR HE WAS  
UNABLE TO FIND WATTAY AIRPORT. WHEN HIS FUEL WAS  
EXHAUSTED HE ATTEMPTED AN EMERGENCY LANDING WHICH  
RESULTED IN THE CRASH.

3. THE FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD US THAT  
ALTHOUGH THE SOVETS HAD COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN THEIR  
PILOTS FROM CIVIL AVIATION IN LAOS THEY WILL NOW PUT  
AT LEAST ONE PILOT (OR CO-PILOT) BACK ON THE VIENTIANE/  
BANGKOK FLIGHTS, WHICH IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE BEEN FLOWN  
SOLELY BY LAO PILOTS. HE SAID, "THEY DON'T WANT TO  
LOSE THEIR AIRPLANES." HE SAID FRENCH DIPLOMATS ARE  
NOT ALLOWED TO FLY ON LAO AVIATION.

4. COMMENT: THE NEW TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS REQUIRING  
FOREIGNERS TO ENTER AND LEAVE LAOS ONLY THROUGH WATTAY  
AIRPORT (REF B) WILL NECESSITATE INCREASED USE OF LAO  
AVIATION FLIGHTS TO BANGKOK BY AMERICAN EMBASSY  
PERSONNEL AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC  
CORPS.  
MCWILLIAMS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI00383  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780134-0272  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** be2bfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3176921  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAO CIVIL AVIATION CONDITIONS  
**TAGS:** ASEC, EAIR, SWEL, LA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/be2bfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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